



Ulistac
Natural Area
Santa Clara, California
Open year-round for
your enjoyment, sunrise
to one-half hour after
sunset. No fee.



City of Santa Clara
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Brochure printed with a grant from Applied Materials

Ulistac Natural Area Santa Clara, California

Look for the interpretive exhibit display boards at most of these viewing points for more detailed information on the dynamic ecosystem in this park.

Grassland

The dense, tufted vegetation of grasslands dominated the Valley floor before human civilization. Purple needlegrass, blue wild rye and California melic provide a home for burrowing rodents and reptiles. Native grasslands have almost disappeared in Santa Clara Valley.

Coastal Scrub

Coastal scrub refers to a mixture of low-growing plants from grasslands, chaparral and forests including California sagebrush and coyote bush.

Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden

Native, juicy nectar plants like ceanothus, fuschias and sticky monkeyflower attract hummingbirds and colorful butterflies.

Oak Savannah

Large expanses of grassland interspersed with small stands of Valley oak trees are the environment referred to as an oak savannah. Acorns attract woodpeckers and a variety of migratory birds are drawn to the area when oak moths are hatched.

Riparian Woodland

Cottonwood, willows and California box elders are among the trees that enjoy the cooler, damp corridors along the Guadalupe River. Other water-loving shrubs join these trees as havens for birds and other nesting animals. Look for frogs and newts in the stream.

Sycamore Woodland

This is a transition zone between lush riparian areas and drier oak woodlands and grasslands. The Ohlone found many uses for sycamore woodland resources in their everyday living.

Oak Woodland

Valley oaks, some of the oldest trees in California's landscape, dominate the oak woodland area of Ulistac.

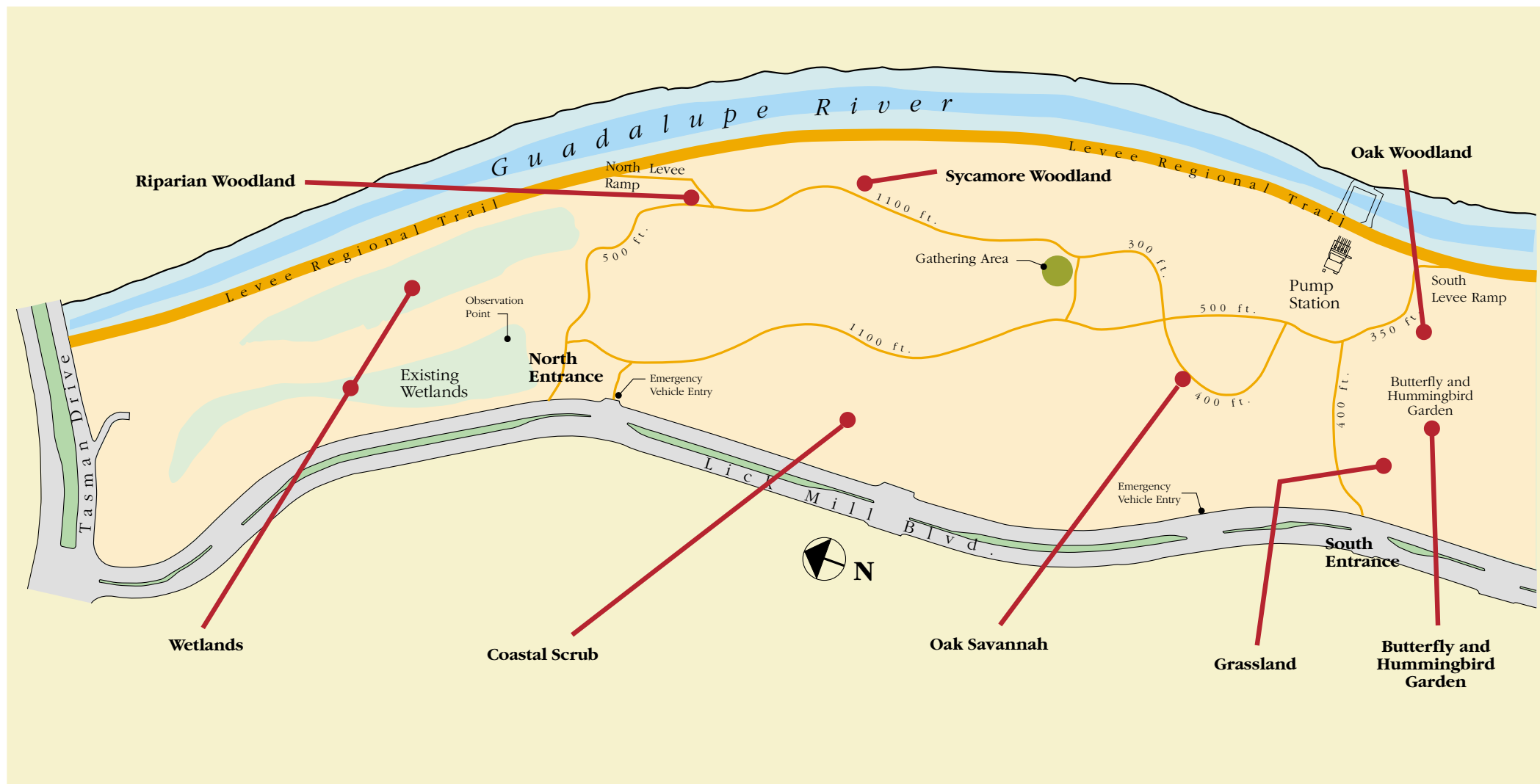
Wetlands

The shallow waters and soggy ground of the wetlands are filled with herbaceous aquatic

vegetation and serve as a habitat for migratory and resident bird populations. Once plentiful throughout California, these natural marshes are now quite rare.

Guadalupe River

In 1963, the Guadalupe River was straightened and channelized to control flooding. The bend of the river that used to run through this part of the park is now lowland area and wetland. The river was used to transport goods to market until the mid 1800s.



**RESTROOMS ARE LOCATED IN
LICK MILL PARK ACROSS THE STREET**

*Irrigation of
Ulistac Natural Area
uses recycled water
from the San
Jose/Santa Clara
Water Pollution
Control Plant.*

Please stay on trails



Ulistac Natural Area – how the Valley looked before human settlers

Ulistac Natural Area includes seven biotic communities – grassland, coastal scrub, oak savannah, riparian woodland, sycamore woodland, oak woodland and wetlands – each with distinctive characteristics and a supporting array of wildlife.

History

The low grasslands, bunch grass and rich faunal life of the Ulistac Natural Area made it useful to the Ohlone Indians, the area’s original inhabitants, as a seasonal encampment for gathering, hunting and collecting as much as 1500 years ago. It could not be counted on as a year-round living site because of periodic winter flooding along the Guadalupe River. The area was called Ulistac by the Ohlone in honor of an Ohlone chief.

The site was abandoned by the Ohlone after the Spanish arrived in Santa Clara Valley in the 1770s and Mission Santa Clara and Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe were founded. The Ulistac area was used

by the Spanish and Mexicans as pasture for grazing cattle and sheep during the early 1800s and was referred to as Rancho Ulistac when it passed into American hands in 1846.

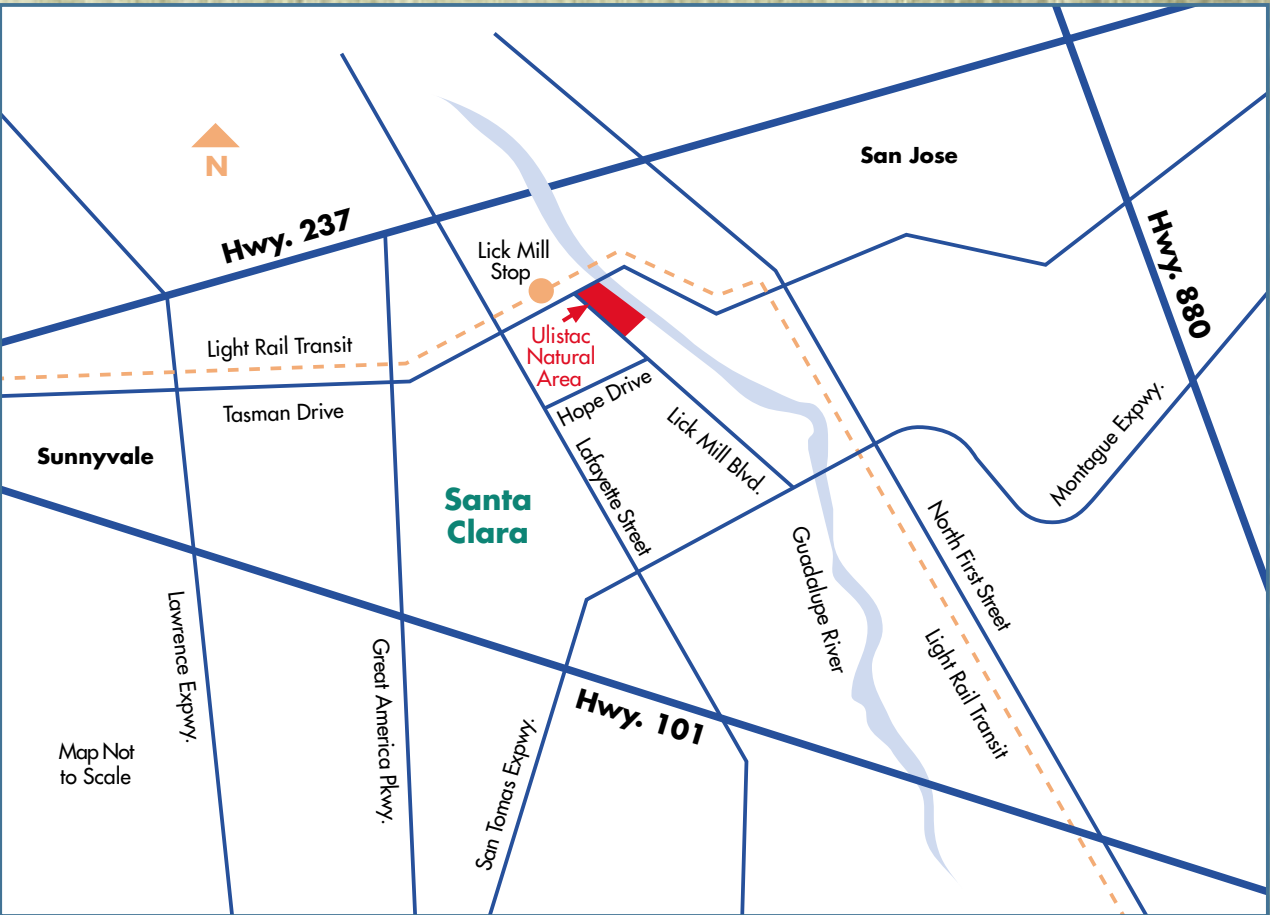
Chinese workers first used the land for agricultural production from 1870 to 1890. Filipino and Japanese farmers later leased the fields for strawberries and other truck crops and, at some point, the fields were converted to pear orchards.

The site was used as the Fairway Glen Golf Course from 1961 until 1988. The City of Santa Clara purchased the site in 1974 and it remained fallow during the 1990s. Now these 41 acres provide an open space opportunity to learn about the history and ecology of Santa Clara Valley and enjoy the natural beauty of this unique region of the Golden State.

Ulistac is the work of Mother Nature and hundreds of volunteers

Individuals, community clubs, nonprofit agencies, foundations, and local corporations contributed time and money to the restoration of Ulistac Natural Area. Many of the California native trees and shrubs you see in Ulistac Natural Area (including 800 just in the Butterfly Garden) were replanted there by high school, college and community volunteers.

Thank you Applied Materials, Audubon Society, Boy Scouts of America, City of Santa Clara, Earth Team, Friends of Santa Clara Parks & Recreation, Intel Corporation, Interland Corporation, Mission City Community Fund, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Nature Restoration Trust, People for Open Space in Santa Clara, PG&E, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, Santa Clara University, Ulistac Natural Area Community Habitat Restoration Project (UNA-CHRP), and Wilcox High School, for your support of Ulistac.



Help preserve the natural beauty of Ulistac Natural Area

Dogs must be on 6-foot leash at all times

Picnicking is not allowed in Ulistac, but picnic facilities are available across the street at Lick Mill Park

Fires – No fires are allowed at any time

Alcohol is not permitted within the preserve

Swimming or wading in Guadalupe River is prohibited

Fishing and hunting are not permitted in Ulistac Natural Area. It is a protected area.

Weapons including firearms, air guns, paintball guns and archery equipment are prohibited

Garbage should be placed in trash receptacles. Please keep our preserve clean.

Plants and wildlife should be left as they are found. Collection of plant specimens and feeding of birds or animals is not permitted.

Accessibility and restrooms – Trails in Ulistac and restroom facilities at Lick Mill Park (across the street) are fully accessible to the physically disabled

